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City of Barrie

Minutes - Final

Seniors Advisory Committee

Monday, August 23, 2021 | **10:00 AM** | **Virtual Meeting**

For consideration by the Finance and Corporate Services Committee on September 14, 2021.

The meeting was called to order by the Chair, D. Dellio at 10:07 a.m. The following were in attendance for the meeting:

Present: 7 - Chairman D. Dellio
Councillor A. Kungl
G. Kavanagh
H. Stone
L. Ricardo
M. Malcolm
P. Thiffault

Absent: 4 - C. Green
J. Annable
P. Sasco
S. Turcott

STAFF:
Committee Support Clerk, B. Thompson
Planner, S. White
Recreation Programmer, J. Gourlie
Supervisor of Growth and Development, A. Sajecki.

The Seniors Advisory Committee met and reports as follows:

SECOND SUITES/AFFORDABLE HOUSING UPDATE

Anna Sajecki, Supervisor of Growth and Development provided the Committee with a brief update regarding Zoning By-law amendments relating to affordable housing and consultations from feedback received from a public meeting held on June 15.

Shelby White, RPP, Planner explained affordable housing key challenges, and while Simcoe County is the designated affordable housing service manager for the City of Barrie, under the *Housing Services Act*, the two work closely together.

Ms. White provided a presentation on Affordable Housing:

- Barrie's Affordable Housing Strategy
    - The City of Barrie's Affordable Housing Strategy, created in 2015, set a target of 840 new affordable units by 2024.
        - The aim of the strategy is to prevent the affordability gap from getting wider.

- Strategy Highlights
    - 872 new units were created, including 409 unfunded second suites; using an adjusted affordability percentage for unfunded second suites, a total of 619 new units were created;
    - Only occupied units are included in count;
    - Second suites have been embraced and are permitted across the City; and
    - New Community Improvement Plan has provided $1.77 million in support for future affordable housing and purpose-built rental projects.

- Actions Underway
    - Staff presented a report to Council in March 2021 monitoring affordable housing in Barrie and provided an overview of the commitments to date.

- Recommended Actions
    - As part of the staff report to Council, several new recommended actions were also put forward.

- Affordable Housing Task Force
    - The Affordable Housing Task Force is exploring the most effective ways to get more affordable housing built in Barrie; and

- The Task Force findings and next steps will be published in December 2021.

- The Draft New Official Plan
  - The City of Barrie's current plan (2010) aims to "achieve a minimum target of 10 percent of all new housing units per annum to be affordable"; and
  - The City's new draft Official Plan continues to support this target, while more comprehensively encouraging/guiding affordable housing.

- Zoning By-law Amendments
  - Amendments aim to remove barriers to affordable housing while ensuring affordable housing units fit within a neighbourhood's existing fabric.

- Cash Contributions In-Lieu
  - Cash Contributions in lieu of affordable housing units would give developers more flexibility in how they can make affordable housing contributions to the City; and
  - Funds could be used to contribute to the affordable housing CIP, to purchase units, to build a dedicated reserve or to provide rent supplementation.

- Waiving Applicable Fees
  - Council has authorized that the planning application fees and building permit fees be waived for affordable housing projects.

Attachments: Presentation - Affordable Housing Update 210823

C.A.R.P. INITATIVE

Gwen Kavanagh provided an overview of the Seniors Community Fund, as well as some of the statistics for seniors living below the poverty line. Ms. Kavanagh indicated that the fund would assist those seniors living below the poverty line. She explained there will be a sub committee consisting of two C.A.R.P. board members and three outside organizations.

REVIEW OF PROPOSED PRESENTATION TOPICS/ORGANIZATIONS

The Committee collectively discussed a number of the proposed presentation topics, as well as the agencies and organizations providing these presentations. Additional presentation ideas and organizations were also discussed by the Committee and added to the outline for future presentations.

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 11:48 a.m.

CHAIRMAN